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CONTACT: Lindsey Capps (202) 225-5065

STARK STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON, DC -- Today, Rep. Pete Stark (D-Fremont) responded to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's visit to Washington and meeting with California's Congressional Delegation. The following is Rep. Stark's statement:

"Today, Governor Schwarzenegger came to Washington for what he's touted as an "unprecedented" bipartisan meeting with our Congressional Delegation. What's unprecedented is that the Governor would need to come to Washington to hold this meeting.

"As a Republican, Governor Schwarzenegger ought to be able to influence the Republicans in firm control of both houses of Congress and our Republican President. Yet, Californians still send \$50 billion more to the federal government each year than we get back.

"Under President Bush's budget, California will face a massive \$550 million cut in Medicaid funds that will put enormous fiscal strain on our state. The President's budget cuts COPS funding and eliminates federal reimbursement to California counties for doing the federal government's job incarcerating illegal immigrants.

"In the House of Representatives alone, California Republicans chair six of the most important committees. The Republicans have a 15-seat majority in the House. If the 20 California Republicans stuck together, they could hold up the budget and appropriations process and demand better funding for priorities important to Californians.

"It's unprecedented -- and sad -- that the Governor and California Republicans have failed to use their clout to collect for California."